

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/782,754

Examiner

Mohammad A. Siddiqi

Applicant(s)

DONOHO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/13/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14, 17-20, and 22 (rearranged claims 1-19).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

NATHAN FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14, 17-20, and 22 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Donald M. Hendricks on 05/07/2007.

3. Please amend the claims as attached.
4. Please replace the following section in the specification, on Page 1, line 3 of the application, with the following section:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This Application is a Continuation Application of and claims priority to U.S. Application No. 09/272,937, filed 19 March 1999, entitled Method and Apparatus for Computed Relevance Messaging, issued on 03 July 2001 as U.S. Patent No. 6,256,664, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/098,798, entitled Computed-Relevance Messaging with AdviceNet, filed 01 September 1998.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A. Siddiqi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MAS

Please amend the claims as attached.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

an advice provider computer associated with an advice provider,
wherein said advice provider computer ~~which~~ provides advisories for a
plurality of consumer computers associated with advice consumers,
irrespective of actual relevance of said advisories to any of said plurality of
~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers and said advice consumers, each of
said advisories comprising a relevance clause comprising criteria defined by
said advice provider wherein said respective advisory is potentially relevant
to a recipient;

~~an advice consumer~~ a consumer computer of said plurality of ~~advice~~
~~consumers~~ consumer computers for gathering said advisories from said
advice provider computer over a communications medium, said consumer
computer having an associated advice consumer;

means a mechanism for synchronizing said advisories between said
advice provider computer and said ~~advice~~ consumer computer, wherein said
synchronization is performed through said ~~advice~~ consumer computer any of
continuously, automatically and manually, and wherein said synchronization

comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between advisories stored at said ~~advice~~ consumer computer with advisories located at said advice provider computer, by gathering new advisories that have been added at ~~added by~~ said advice provider computer since the most recent prior synchronization, and by deleting advisories from said ~~advice~~ consumer computer that have been ~~retracted by~~ removed from said advice provider computer since said most recent prior synchronization; and

a reader application associated with said ~~advice~~ consumer computer for parsing each of said relevance clauses of said stored gathered advisories into a tree of subexpressions, and automatically determining relevance of said stored gathered advisories to any of said consumer computer and said associated advice consumer, wherein said determined relevance is at least partially based on an automatic evaluation of each subexpression of said tree of subexpressions ~~said relevance clause~~ by said reader application;

wherein said associated advice consumer is advised of said stored gathered advisories ~~which~~ that are determined to be relevant by said reader application.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said reader application further comprises:

means for providing relevant advisories to said advice consumer without revealing any aspect of said advice consumer's identity to said advice provider computer.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein relevance of said advisories to said ~~advice~~ consumer computer is based upon any of the properties of said consumer ~~an advice consumer's~~ computer, said consumer computer's contents or state, or the properties of a local environment associated with said consumer computer.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein said ~~advice~~ consumer computer maintains anonymity, privacy, and security by not revealing to said advice provider computer either that said associated advice consumer is interested in said advisories from said advice provider computer, that said advice consumer computer has received any particular advisory, or that said advisory is relevant to any of said consumer computer and said associated advice consumer.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said advisories further comprise any of humanly-interpretable content, data, and software tools.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said advice provider specifies an audience for whom a particular advisory is potentially relevant by referring to properties of any of a consumer computer and an advice consumer which that are used to determine said relevance of said particular advisory to any of said consumer computer and said associated advice consumer.

7. (Currently Amended) A communications method, comprising the steps of:

storing ~~preparing~~ at least one advisory at an advice provider computer associated with an advice provider, each of said advisories comprising a relevance clause comprising conditions under which said respective advisory is potentially relevant to any of potential consumer computers and associated advice consumers;

synchronizing said advisories between said advice provider computer and said potential ~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers anonymously using a network, wherein said synchronization comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between advisories stored at said potential ~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers with advisories located at said advice provider computer, by gathering new advisories that have been added ~~by~~ at said advice provider computer since the most recent prior synchronization,

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and by deleting advisories from said potential ~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers that have been ~~retracted by~~ removed from said advice provider computer since said most recent prior synchronization, wherein said synchronization is performed any of continuously, automatically and manually through said potential ~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers, without requiring that any of said consumer computers and said advice consumers divulge their identity or attributes or message-related relevance information to said advice provider computer;

storing said synchronized advisories at ~~an advice consumer location~~ a consumer computer;

automatically parsing each of said relevance clauses of said stored synchronized advisories into a tree of subexpressions; and

automatically determining at said ~~advice consumer~~ computer ~~location~~ whether ~~each of~~ said stored synchronized advisories are relevant to any of said consumer computer and said associated advice consumer, wherein said determined relevance is at least partially based on an automatic evaluation of each subexpression of said tree of subexpressions for each of said respective relevance clauses at said ~~advice consumer location~~ computer.

8. (Currently Amended) In a system including computational devices connected by a communications network, a communications apparatus, comprising:

specific units of advice to be shared;

digital documents conveying said advice;

an advice provider computer for providing said advice in the form of advisories for a plurality of ~~advice-consumers~~ consumer computers, wherein each said advisory further comprises a relevance clause comprising criteria defined by said an advice provider wherein said advisory is potentially relevant to a recipient;

~~an advice consumer~~ a consumer computer of said plurality of ~~advice consumers~~ consumer computers for gathering said advisories from said advice provider computer over said communications network, said consumer computer having an associated advice consumer;

~~means~~ a mechanism for anonymously synchronizing said advisories over said communications network between said advice provider computer and said ~~advice consumer~~ computer, wherein said advisories are potentially relevant to any of said consumer computer and said associated advice consumer, wherein said advice consumer is not required to divulge to said advice provider computer any of their identity, attributes and message-related relevance information, wherein said synchronization is performed

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through said ~~advice~~ consumer computer any of continuously, automatically and manually, and wherein the synchronization comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between advisories stored at the ~~advice~~ consumer computer with advisories located at the advice provider, by gathering new advisories that have been added ~~by~~ to said advice provider computer since the most recent prior synchronization, and by deleting advisories from said ~~advice~~ consumer computer that have been ~~retracted by~~ removed from said advice provider computer since said most recent prior synchronization; and

a communications protocol for narrowly-focused targeting of said ~~synchronized~~ stored synchronized advisories to said advice consumer by parsing each of said relevance clauses of said stored synchronized advisories into a tree of subexpressions, and by automatically matching said ~~synchronized~~ stored synchronized advisories at said ~~advice~~ consumer computer for whom said ~~synchronized~~ stored synchronized advisories are potentially relevant, wherein said automatic matching is at least partially based on evaluating each subexpression of said tree of subexpressions for each of said relevance clauses at said ~~advice~~ consumer computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising:

an advice reader application associated with ~~an advice~~ said consumer computer for performing said relevance determination.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said relevance determination is automatically performed based on a combination of conditions, including any of hardware attributes, configuration attributes, database attributes, environmental attributes, computed attributes, remote attributes, timeliness, personal attributes, randomization, and advice attributes.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said advice reader application operates automatically to determine relevance.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said advice reader application associated with said consumer computer comprises any of comprising:

a gatherer for gathering advisories to which said advice consumer subscribes;

a subscription manager for entering subscriptions to advisories based on information in at least one advice consumer site definition file;

an unwrapper for parsing said advisories;

a module for determining the relevance of said advisories, said determination being made either continuously, at scheduled intervals, or under user manual control;

a user interface that receives relevant advisories; and

a display and management system that displays relevant advisories for inspection by said advice consumer.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein any information that is actually on an advice said consumer computer or reachable from said advice consumer computer may be used to determine relevance.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said advisories comprise:

digital documents that contain an explanatory component describing in terms said advice consumer can easily understand the reason that said advisory is relevant and the purpose and effects of the action that is being recommended to said advice consumer.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said automatic evaluation of said relevance clause by said reader application further comprises a parsing of said relevance clause into ~~any of a tree of subexpressions and~~ a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.

18. (Previously Presented) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said conditions refer to attributes associated with said potential advice consumers.

19. (Currently Amended) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said determined relevance is based on any of properties of ~~an advice~~ said consumer computer, contents of said ~~advice~~ consumer computer, a state of said ~~advice~~ consumer computer, and properties of a local environment associated with said ~~advice~~ consumer computer.

20. (Currently Amended) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said automatic evaluation of said relevance clause at said ~~advice~~ consumer computer further comprises parsing said relevance clause into ~~any of a tree of subexpressions and~~ a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said evaluation of said relevance clause at said ~~advice~~ consumer computer further comprises a parsing of each said relevance clause into ~~any of a tree of subexpressions~~ and a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.